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buddies
IN BAD TIMES THEATRE

Buddies in Bad Times Theatre presents

THE 31ST RHUBARB FESTIVAL

Toronto's annual 3-week convergence of contemporary performance

Feb 10 – 28, 2010
Box Office 416-975-8555

Festival Director **Erika Hennebury**
Associate Curator **Alex Wolfson**

Festival Sponsor **TD Financial**
Media Sponsor **NOW Magazine**

**TORONTO, ON...CANADA'S OLDEST AND LARGEST NEW WORKS FESTIVAL
ANNOUNCES A WILDLY ECLECTIC LINE-UP OF LOCAL, NATIONAL AND
INTERNATIONAL INDIE THEATRE FOR FEBRUARY 2010**

For more than 30 years, the Rhubarb Festival has offered Toronto audiences fresh live experiments in contemporary theatre, performance, dance and music. Rhubarb provides a space for established artists to take new risks and encourages emerging artists to make waves by challenging theatrical conventions. The result is a unique and exciting festival of new performance hybrids.

The 2010 Line-Up

This year's Rhubarb Festival will showcase a host of brave new offerings from some of Toronto's hottest indie artists and provocateurs such as **d'bi.young, Jess Dobkin, Ulysses Castellanos, Sherri Hay, Nicole Brooks, Ryan G. Hinds, Jeremy Bailey, Zachary Russell, Birdtown and Swanville, David Tomlinson and Ryan Kelly, Lindsey Clark and Aubrey Laufer, Jordan Tannahill, Jonathan Heppner and Sasha Kovacs, Shannon Blake, Chris Dupuis, Rose Plotek and Devon Elke**. From out of town Rhubarb will host renowned Canadian artists: singer-songwriter **Rae Spoon** and animator **Jessica MacCormack** (Montreal) and **Ian Mozden** and **Mia van Leeuwen** (Winnipeg) alongside three exceptional New York-based artists: **Neal Medlyn, Glenn Marla** and **Karen Bernard**. This year's line-up is the most outrageous to date with kitch, camp, glamour, sleaze, drag, full frontal nudity, fake moustaches, mullets, glitter, violence and splosh.

**"ANNUAL TONIC OF FRESH AND EXCITING THEATRE THAT
INVIGORATES TORONTO" - THE TORONTO STAR**

Spotlight on New York

This year we shine the spotlight on a few of New York's top indie outlaws. Buddies is thrilled to welcome New York's hottest fat go go boy and style icon **Glenn Marla**, fresh from performing in Taylor Mac's sold-out *The Lily's Revenge* in New York. Glenn kicks off Week One of Rhubarb with his hit one-tranny show, *Tragic Magic*. In Week Three, **Karen Bernard**, a conceptual dance artist, Performance Mix Festival curator and Artistic Director of New Dance Alliance, brings her stunning tribute to François Ozon's film *Swimming Pool*, *Ouette / (ō'et)*. And for one night only, after sold-out runs at the New Museum for Contemporary Art in New York, the TBA Festival in Portland Oregon and Austin's Fusebox Festival, performance artist and "skinny white boy" **Neal Medlyn** brings us his faithful reenactment of Beyonce's 2007 concert DVD *The Beyonce Experience Live!* before showing at The Warhol Museum later this year.

Wednesday Club Nights

Rounding off the 2010 Rhubarb line-up are Wednesday club nights, where the cutting edge of fashion, art and music converge, featuring performances by **Neal Medlyn**, **Lucas Silveira** of The Kliks, and special guests (Week One) and Toronto drama bands **Betty Burke** (Week Two) and **Pony da Look** (Week Three).

ABOUT RHUBARB

First produced by Buddies in 1979, Rhubarb is more than a new play festival; it is a singular site for adventure-loving audiences to experience contemporary theatre in its most unrestrained state. At Rhubarb, we allow the *artist* and the *idea* to be the centre. Here, inspiration and innovation are paramount. Over almost 30 years Rhubarb has seen exciting new work by a host of groundbreaking Canadian artists such as **Daniel MacIvor**, **Daniel Brooks**, **Guillermo Verdecchia**, **Don McKellar**, **Diane Flacks**, **Gavin Crawford**, **Sonja Mills**, **Darren O'Donnell**, **Sky Gilbert**, **Damien Atkins**, **Atom Egoyan**, **Jacob Wren**, **Ann-Marie MacDonald** (and many more).

How It Works

Evening Passes are available for only \$17 and allows you unlimited access to anything happening in one night. \$25 gets you an unlimited Week Pass so you can come and go, take your time and catch every show at your own pace. A limited number of Festival Passes are available for only \$60 (on sale now). Our Festival Pass gives you unlimited access to any performance on any night of the entire festival and comes with a copy of *Rhubarb-o-Rama*, edited by **Franco Boni** and featuring a rare collection of short plays from Rhubarb's past by luminaries such as **Jacob Wren**, **Darren O'Donnell** and **Daniel MacIvor**, among others.

TICKETS

Evening Pass \$17, Week Pass \$25, Festival Pass \$60

Call or visit the Box Office 416-975-8555

Buddies In Bad Times Theatre, Toronto ON

www.artsexy.ca

SCHEDULE-AT-A-GLANCE

Week One: Feb 10 -14

	<i>Cabaret</i>	<i>Chamber</i>
8pm	Tragic Magic	Parole, Parole
8:30pm	Obeah Opera	Dead Wrestlers
9:00pm	Cordelia	Teddy Chainsaw Massacre
10pm (Fri only)		The Neal Medlyn Experience

Week one special events

Rhubarb Festival Kick-Off Bash: Wed, Feb 10, 10pm, The Cabaret

I've Got My Own Thing Going On: Wed, Feb 10, 7:30pm - on, The Lobby

The Keith Cole Experience: Fri, Feb 12, 10:30pm, The Cabaret

Young Creators' Unit Presentations: Sat, Feb 13 & Sun, Feb 14, 6 - 7pm, The Chamber

Week Two: Feb 17 - 21

	<i>Cabaret</i>	<i>Chamber</i>
8pm	Hunting!	The Future of Theatre
8:30pm	Moustaches & Lipstick	Insurgency
9:00pm	Headbangers	Le Petit Mort
9:30pm		she

Week Two special events

Week Two Kick-Off Bash: Wed, Feb 17, 10pm, The Cabaret

I've Got My Own Thing Going On: Wed, Feb 10, 7:30pm - on, The Lobby

Panel: Live Performance: A Transaction of Risk, Sun, Feb 21, 4pm, The Cabaret, Free

Week Three: Feb 24 - 28

	<i>Cabaret</i>	<i>Chamber</i>
8pm	Don't Dream...	Everything I've Got
8:30pm	Factory	Everything I've Got con't
9:00pm	Stadium	Tender Buttons
9:30pm		Ouette o'et

Week Three special events

Week Three Kick-Off Bash: Wed, Feb 24, 10pm, The Cabaret

I've Got My Own Thing Going On: Wed, Feb 10, 7:30pm - on, The Lobby

Young Creators' Unit Presentations: Sat, Feb 27 & Sun, Feb 28, 6 - 7pm, The Chamber

SHOW DESCRIPTIONS

Week One: Feb 10 – 14

RHUBARB FESTIVAL KICK OFF BASH

featuring Neal Medlyn, Lucas Silveira, with surprise guests and special treats by Frostitution
Wed Feb 10, 10pm, The Cabaret

Tragic Magic (New York)

8pm, the cabaret

created and performed by **Glenn Marla**

choreography by **Bethany Elkin**

One tranny's dark, hilarious exploration of how we interact with our bodies and our past. Glenn's new work combines text, dance, face masturbation, affirmations, body break-ups, glitter, grit and a bathtub striptease, continuing his tradition of visual and theatrical daring.
www.glennmarla.com

"downtown prophet" - Time Out New York

"an obese transvestite in tights." - The New York Times

Parole, Parole

8pm, the chamber

written and directed by **Zack Russell**

performed by **Carmen Grant, Joanna Caplan, Lindy Zucker, Kate Siemiatycki, Alexandra Contreras, Sarah Murphy Dyson and Molly Grundy**

Music by **Jonathan Adjemian**

Production and Stage Manager **Ruth Spencer**

Costume Design **Erin Freedman**

Italian Studio Audience: *Cinque – Quattro – Tre – Duo – Uno!*

Welcome back. On tonight's show: author Cesare Pavese, singer Rita Pavone, and a surprise mystery guest. Mystery guest, are you ready? Let's play: Talk to me! [*Colloquio a Me* airs daily at 5PM on RAI – English translation provided]

Obeah Opera

8:30pm, the cabaret

conceived, created and written by **Nicole Brooks**

performed by **Amina Alfred, Abena Malika, Saidah Baba Talibah, Dana Phoenix and Nicole Brooks**

The development of Obeah Opera is partly financed with workshop & performance space, funds, and creative support through *b current's* rock.paper.sistahz festival 8 & 9, and its 2010 Studio Artists Project.

A piece that musically dabbles in the woes of womanhood and the mystical. Hundreds of women are accused of being witches and bringing 'Obeah' to a good Christian town. Meet five women in a holding room, waiting and sharing in their fate for what could be their last...

Dead Wrestlers

8:30pm, the chamber

Created and directed by **Aurora Stewart de Peña** and **Nika Mistruzzi**
for **Birdtown and Swanville**

Performed by **Cara Gee, Nicole Stamp, Rebecca Applebaum, Jolene DeVoe, Nika Mistruzzi, Gwynneth Tossel, Donna Maloney, Julia Lederer** and **Aurora Stewart de Peña**
Film by **Sofia Bohdanowicz** in association with **Smug Pictures**

Dead Wrestlers charges triumphantly along the path separating two epic Wrestling Dynasties, the Lovers and The Von Spikehorns. Taking place sometime in the fog between 1975 and 1982, these two noble families will literally fight to the death before your very eyes, for the title, shining with body grease, resplendent with sound effects and holding a grudge. Six Wrestlers. Three Belts. One Title. Brought to you by Birdtown and Swanville. www.birdtownandswanville.com

Cordelia

9pm, the cabaret

written and performed by **David Tomlinson** and **Ryan Kelly**
directed by **Patrick Conner**

Cordelia, you're gone again.
Cordelia, it's gone wrong again.
Cordelia... are you gonna make it okay?

Teddy Chainsaw Massacre

9pm, the chamber

conceived by **Ulysses Castellanos**
created and performed by **Sherri Hay** and **Ulysses Castellanos**
costume design by **Sherri Hay** and **Ulysses Castellanos**

Teddy Chainsaw Massacre is an adaptation of Tobe Hooper's *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre*, performed entirely with teddy bears. A collaboration between Sherri Hay and Ulysses Castellanos, *Teddy Chainsaw Massacre* takes its cues from children's shows such as *Polka Dot Door*, in which actors manipulate stuffed animals to enact a narrative.
www.ulyssesdadabase.com

SPECIAL LATE-NIGHT EVENT

THE NEAL MEDLYN EXPERIENCE LIVE! (New York)

starring **Neal Medlyn** and special guests
one night only: fri, feb 12, 10pm, the chamber (60min)

A live, faithful re-enactment of Beyonce's 2007 concert DVD *The Beyonce Experience Live!* featuring backup dancers, birthday cake, cameos by Destiny's Child, and box fans to blow Neal's hair. Presented to great acclaim and sold out crowds at the New Museum for Contemporary Art in New York as well as the TBA Festival in Portland Oregon, Austin's Fusebox Festival, and will appear at the Warhol Museum in 2010. <http://www.nealmedlyn.com/>

"Medlyn deals in theatrical miracles. He transforms the stuff of our celebrity-obsessed, media-saturated world into impossibly beautiful, absurdist happenings...He's amazing."
- New York Times and NPR's All Things Considered

THE KEITH COLE EXPERIENCE

fri, feb 12, doors at 10:30pm, show at 11:15 sharp, the cabaret, \$8

Keith Cole hosts a special Rhubarb edition of his monthly Tallulah's Cabaret club night, featuring **Evan Olivia Vipond, Chris Michael Burns, Michael Lyons, Rain Chan, Shawn Hitchins** and **Moynan King** and more

Week Two: Feb 17 – 21

WEEK TWO OPENING NIGHT BASH

wed, feb 17, the cabaret, 10pm

featuring live music by **Betty Burke**

<http://bettyburke.blogspot.com/>

Hunting! (Montreal)

8pm, the cabaret

written and performed by **Rae Spoon**

animations by Jessica **MacCormack**

Rae Spoon traces his journey from growing up in a pentecostal church in Calgary to touring as a transgendered country singer and beyond with music, stories and animations. www.raespoon.com

The Future of Theatre

8pm, the chamber

by **Jeremy Bailey**

Jeremy Bailey will demonstrate innovative new software he has created specifically for the performing arts industry. Don't miss this exciting opportunity to witness the future of theatre. www.jeremybailey.net

Moustaches & Lipstick

8:30pm, the cabaret

conceived and created by **Jonathan Seinen** and **Lindsey Clark**

performed by **Lindsey Clark** and **Aubrey Laufer**

Fusing live theatre and electronic music, Moustaches & Lipstick explores rhythm, gender, love, communication, escape, and sequins.

Insurgency

8:30pm, the chamber

conceived and directed by **Jordan Tannahill**

produced by **Sarah Sherman**

performed by **Melanie Barber, Simon Brand, Justine Kitteringham, Miya Strauss, Liam Sullivan**

original music composed by **Katie Stelmanis**

Five pre-teen youth are brought to an abandoned suburb where they launch a rebel insurgency against an unknown enemy. In the post-cause generation, what is there left to die for?
www.suburbanbeast.ca

Headbangers

9pm, the cabaret

conceived and directed by **Jonathan Heppner** and **Sasha Kovacs**

created with and performed by **Andrya Duff, Tina Fushell, Kat Sandler, Rebecca Singh**

Headbanger: A fan of heavy metal music.

Headbanging: A dance that involves violently shaking the head in time with music, most commonly rock music and heavy metal music.

Headbangers: A piece that finds the subversive in our everyday patterns of head-bobbing and head-butting through an unlikely group's descent into the world of metalheads and extreme hair.

Le Petit Mort (Winnipeg)

9pm, the chamber

co-created by **Ian Mozdzen** and **Mia van Leeuwen (out of line theatre)**

directed by **Ian Mozdzen**

performed by **Mia van Leeuwen**

Le Petit Mort was created with the financial assistance of The Winnipeg Arts Council. *Le Petit Mort* is based upon Georges Bataille's short story *The Dead Man (or Le Mort)*

Le Petit Mort ... our sloppy spin on Georges Bataille. Raw expressionistic erotic ... Mia wrestles with a divinely filthy heroine – Marie – a widow who nakedly flings herself into snatchety snatches, poo poo, and doo doo ... and she wrestles a dwarf, too. www.outoflinetheatre.com

"The audience was unsure if it should laugh or gag." (*The Uiter*)

she

part 1 of the she raw now trilogy

9:30pm, chamber

by d'bi.young, music by prymtym

dubnotic sound system featuring d'bi.young and prymtym

'*she*' is the first play in a new trilogy of biomyth-monodramas by d'bi.young entitled *she raw now*. a young black womban *snew* is enchanted with a pop icon. as her enchantment becomes obsession, what's real is make-believe and lines of fantasy and reality are possibly permanently blurred. www.dbiyoung.net

Week Three: Feb 24 - 28

WEEK TWO OPENING NIGHT BASH

Wed, Feb 24, Cabaret, 10pm, free

featuring live music by **Pony Da Look**

www.myspace.com/ponydalook

Don't dream with the lights on

8pm, the cabaret

created by **Hannah Cheeseman, Lindsey Clark, Susanna Fournier, Eleanor Hewlings, Rose Plotek, Katie Swift**

directed by **Rose Plotek**

performed by **Hannah Cheeseman, Lindsey Clark, Eleanor Hewlings, Katie Swift**

Well, basically we can't help but communicate. It's not something we have control over, we're going to be communicating whether we want to or not. We can try and choose what we communicate and when, but we're basically doing it all the time; even when we die, that's like the ultimate communication. I'm not here.

Everything I've Got

8pm, chamber (60min)

created and performed by **Jess Dobkin**

directed by **Stephen Lawson** (of 2boys.tv)

Laura Baxter, Production Manager

Sherri Hay, Production Design

Richard Feren, Composition and Sound Design

Laird MacDonald, Lighting Design

Jess Dobkin's newest performance art piece is a raw and intimate examination of creativity and mortality where the artist offers up the entirety of her collection of artistic ideas. With the urgency, vulnerability and humour that marks much of her work, she focuses attention on her own artistic practice and confronts her own temporality. www.jessdobkin.com

Factory

8:30pm, the cabaret

written by **Shannon Blake**

directed by **Megan Watson**

Performed by **Sandi Ross** and **Dana Rogers**

Dinah, a blind octogenarian, and Iris, her late-twenties friend and caregiver, sit in a pick-up truck facing the flooded remains of the factory where Dinah's husband died 25 years ago. Together they consider sisters, bridesmaids, swimming, marriage, men and the vital question: "Is that because you're gay?"

Stadium

9pm, the cabaret

created and performed by **Ryan G. Hinds**

music and lyrics by **Edi**

choreography by **Renald Jean-Pierre**

costume design by **Trish Fedora**

Madonna had The Girlie show. Michael Jackson had Dangerous. Now, Ryan G. Hinds enters the world of pop concerts via STADIUM, an original multi-media pop show with backup dancers, glittering costume changes, and high energy routines that take you from the runway to the dance floor to outer space. www.ryanghinds.ca

Tender Buttons: Objects Play

9pm, the chamber

verse by **Gertrude Stein**

directed and adapted by **Devon Elke**
performed by **Liz Peterson** and **Lara Arabian**
Sound by **Matt Smith**
Lights by **Jonathan Adjemian**
Set/costumes by **Nicole Neufeld**

What can be known after memory and recognition are abolished?

An encounter for two women. Taking place in the labyrinth and continuous present of nightmare. Stein's great destructive composition provides an anchor for this theatrical queering of conventions and the conventional.

***Ouette* | (ō'et)**

9:30pm, the chamber

created and performed by **Karen Bernard**

Ouette | (ō'et), based on François Ozon movie *Swimming Pool*, parallels the story's protagonist, an English novelist, who becomes involved in a dangerous sexual fantasy that is part fiction and part desire. Karen Bernard creates a heightened noir physical drama fractured by non-performative tasks of manipulating a laptop and projector.

Buddies In Bad Times Theatre

Young Creators' Unit

Young Creators' Unit Director **Evalyn Parry**

Dedicated to nurturing and developing young, queer voices, the YCU (now in its fourth year) gives the opportunity for four promising young artists (age 25 and under) to create their own solo performances.

speak

sat feb 13 and sun, feb 14m 6pm

written and performed by **Tyson James**

some voices are never heard.

A Bee Sees

sat feb 13 and sun, feb 14m 6:30pm

written and performed by **Zita Nyarady**

Swarm the starting line, its a race to the sun

Sister Mary's a Dyke?!

sat, feb 27 and sun feb 28, 6pm

written and performed by **Flerida Pena**

Abby didn't think High School would be like this...

Let Me Entertain You

sat, feb 27 and sun feb 28, 6:30pm

written and performed by **Jonathan Schuster**

Welcome to design guru Chip Peterson's fabulous loft. The signature drink tonight is sangria and on the menu for the evening is love.

Wednesday Lobby Performance, 7:30pm and on
I've Got My Own Thing Going On

Created and Performed by **Chris Dupuis, Celebrity Artist**

Meet Chris Dupuis, Celebrity Artist! In 2007 Paris Hilton successfully trademarked her personal catch-phrase "That's Hot!" with the US Patents office. Following Hilton's lead, Dupuis has trademarked his own catch phrase "I've Got My Own Thing Going On". Meet Dupuis and learn how to use this handy phrase in everyday conversation.

Please contact Shawn Hitchins, Media and Audience Outreach Coordinator, at industry@artsexy.ca to book interviews, for media accreditation. We encourage articles, blogs and interviews, but no reviews, please. High resolution digital photography is available on our website at www.artsexy.ca.

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